In the Claims

Please add new claims 10-34 as follows:

10. (New) A connection module comprising:

a housing having a front portion and a rear portion spaced apart from the front portion;

a plurality of connection locations having exposed openings disposed in the front portion; and

a splicing component disposed at least partially between the connection locations and the rear portion, the splicing component configured to optically connect a fiber optic cable that is connected to the module to interior cables that are optically connected between the splicing component and the connection locations;

the housing further including a lower portion having an opening, the opening sized to receive a fiber optic cable.

11. (New) The connection module of claim 10, wherein the front portion is substantially parallel to the rear portion, and wherein the connection locations include a plurality of adapters configured and arranged for connection to an optical fiber connector, the adapters positioned at an angle having a first component angle that is in the direction of the rear portion to the front portion and a second component angle that is in the direction of the lower portion.

12. (New) The connection module of claim 10, wherein the housing further includes a surface having mounting locations, the mounting locations adapted to removably mount the housing to a frame.

13. (New) The connection module of claim 10, wherein the splicing component comprises a splice.

14. (New) The connection module of claim 10, wherein the connection locations include a plurality of adapters, and further comprising at least one interior cable that is optically connected between the splicing component and at least one of the adapters, and further comprising a first

cable that is physically connected to the housing and is optically connected to the splicing component.

15. (New) The connection module of claim 10, wherein the splicing component includes at least one splice that is disposed entirely between the housing front and rear portions.

16. (New) The connection module of claim 10, further comprising a cable attachment member coupled to the housing, the cable attachment member adapted to attach a fiber optic cable to the housing.

17. (New) A method of optically connecting two fiber optic cables, the method comprising:

providing at least one connection module having a front portion, a rear portion spaced apart from the front portion, a plurality of connection locations having exposed openings disposed in the front portion, and a splicing component disposed at least partially between the connection locations and the rear portion, the splicing component configured to optically connect a fiber optic cable that is connected to the module to interior cables that are optically connected between the splicing component and the connection locations;

routing one of the fiber optic cables through a lower portion of the connection module;

optically connecting the two fiber optic cables through the connection module;

wherein the step of optically connecting the two fiber optic cables through the connection module includes the steps of optically connecting at least one optic fiber in each fiber optic cable to a connection location and splicing at least one of the optically connected optic fibers with the splicing component.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one of the connection locations includes an adapter having a front portion and a rear portion, and wherein the step of optically connecting each fiber optic cable to a connection location includes the steps of optically connecting one of the cables to the adapter rear portion and optically connecting the other of the cables to the adapter front portion.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

providing an enclosure extending from the ground over at least two fiber optic cables; and

releasably mounting at least one of the connection modules to the enclosure so that the rear portion thereof is disposed within the enclosure.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 19, wherein the step of releasably mounting at least one connection module comprises mounting at least two connection modules so that the rear portion of each connection module is disposed within the enclosure.

21. **(New)** The method of claim 20, wherein the enclosure has a vertical height and a horizontal width, the height greater than the width, and wherein each of the connection modules has a vertical height and a horizontal width, the height greater than the width, and further comprising the step of mounting each of the connection modules vertically to the enclosure.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of mounting the connection modules adjacent to one another so that their front portions face the same direction.

23. **(New)** The method of claim 19, wherein the step of releasably attaching the connection module to the enclosure includes the step of releasably fastening the connection module to the enclosure with screws.

24. **(New)** An optical fiber distribution frame apparatus comprising:

an enclosure having an upper surface with a front portion and a rear portion, a lower surface with a front portion and a rear portion, the lower surface spaced from and substantially parallel to the upper surface, and two side surfaces spaced from each other and extending between the upper and lower surfaces, the upper surface, lower surface, and side surfaces cooperating to define a cavity within the enclosure, the cavity having a vertical distance extending between the upper and lower surfaces which is greater than a horizontal distance extending between the side surfaces;

a plurality of fiber optic modules mounted to the frame member;

wherein at least one of the plurality of fiber optic modules defines a connection module, the connection module further including a front portion, a rear portion spaced apart from the

front portion, opposed spaced apart side portions, and a splicing portion, the front portion including a plurality of connection locations having exposed openings along the front thereof, the splicing portion positioned at least partially between the front portion and the rear portion, and the side portions being generally parallel and extending a vertical distance that is larger than the distance of the space between the side portions; and

wherein another one of the modules defines a storage module including a front portion, a rear portion, first and second spools positioned on the front portion, spaced apart upper and lower surfaces and spaced apart side surfaces extending between the upper and lower surfaces, wherein a distance between the upper and lower surfaces is greater than a distance between the side surfaces; and

wherein the connection modules are vertically mounted so that the rear portions thereof are disposed within the cavity and so that the side portions thereof are generally parallel to the side surfaces of the enclosure and each other, and so that the front portions face the same direction.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at least one of the connection modules includes a cable attachment member attached to the rear portion thereof, the cable attachment member adapted to attach the first cable to the connection module.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at last two of the connection locations are each defined by an adapter configured and arranged for receiving an optical fiber and the adapters are positioned at an angle having a component angle in the direction of the lower surface of the enclosure.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, comprising at least two of the connection modules.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the connection modules are mounted adjacent to each other.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the connection module is releasably mounted to the enclosure.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the splicing portion comprises at least one splice.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the splicing portion is disposed completely between the connection module front portion and the connection module rear portion.

32. (New) A method of assembling an optical fiber distribution frame comprising:

providing an enclosure extending from the ground over at least two fiber optic cables,

selecting a plurality of fiber optic modules for mounting to the frame member selected so as to fill the frame member with desired functions, at least one of the modules including a connection module for optically connecting two fiber optic cables, the connection module having a front portion, a rear portion, and at least one splicing portion positioned between the front portion and the rear portion, the front portion including a plurality of connection locations, the splicing portion for linking at least one of the fiber optic cables and interior cables connected to the connection locations, and at least one of the further modules including a storage module including at least one spool on the front;

mounting each of the selected fiber optic modules to at least two of the mounting locations of the frame member so that the fronts face the same direction; and

connecting the two fiber optic cables through the connection modules.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein two connection modules are mounted to the frame member adjacent to one another.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the front portion of at least one of the connector modules further provides a plurality of adapters configured and arranged for connection to an optical fiber connector, the adapters positioned at an angle having a component angle in the direction of a lower surface of the enclosure.